

Appendix F

A SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM THE MECHANICAL SUBSURFACE
PRESENCE/ABSENCE TESTING OF THE MURPHY RANCH PROJECT AREA, MILPITAS,
SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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DECEMBER, 2005

INTRODUCTION

A program of mechanical backhoe testing was conducted by Holman & Associates at the Murphy Ranch property in Milpitas during the first and second weeks of December, 2005 to search for potentially buried prehistoric cultural resources. None were found. This report contains a summary of information gained to date.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Murphy Ranch project consists of the development of two separate projects inside the 22 acre remnant of the larger Murphy Ranch property found on Murphy Ranch Road near its intersection with Technology Drive in Milpitas, Santa Clara County, California. The 14.5 acre Brookfield development will be on the southern portion of the project site and will consist of 262 multi family dwellings. The 7.58 Fairfield development will be on the northern portion of the site and will consist of 373 rental apartments. Currently zoned for an industrial park, a General Plan amendment will be needed to allow the construction of multi-family housing.

Currently the approximately 22 acre parcel is an open field which is disced for weed removal but otherwise is not cultivated. Located on the Milpitas U.S.G.S. map, the borders of the property are existing industrial buildings on the north, the levee bordering Coyote Creek on the west, additional buildings on the south and Murphy Ranch Road on the east.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological literature review was conducted by this author on September 9, 2005 at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) located at Sonoma State University (file no. 05-264). Surprisingly this property has had little attention regarding cultural resources since it was first formally surveyed in 1980 by Robert Cartier. There are no prehistoric sites located inside the project borders, and the nearest formally recorded prehistoric site, Scl-675, is found southwest of the project area on the other side of Coyote Creek inside the Agnews hospital grounds.

The Murphy Ranch property has however been the object of considerable interest because of the historical structures which stood on it until the early 1990s when they evidently were all removed. A summary of those cultural resource studies on file at the NWIC is given below.

The first formal survey of the property was conducted in 1980 by Robert Cartier in the process of inspecting the larger Perry and Ariallaga Ranches, a total of 400 acres. Cartier performed a survey for prehistoric resources which was negative, but did note the presence of numerous buildings from the middle to late 19th century which were potentially significant. While he had little to say about potentially buried prehistoric resource areas, he did recommend further work be done on the standing structures at a minimum.

Cartier's recommendations were not followed up on until 1986, when Basin Research Associates contracted with Michael Corbett to provide studies (Corbett 1986a,b) of the Bellew-McCarthy Ranch complex and the adjacent Shaughnessy-Murphy Ranch complex, the latter which includes all of the current project area.

Both ranch complexes were found to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register by Corbett. His two reports, which contain extensive histories of the families and descriptions of the extant buildings, made a series of recommendations, the least of which was the photo-documentation of the buildings for archival purposes.

Interestingly, the NWIC does not possess any additional reporting by Basin Research Associates regarding the issue of prehistoric resources; it is assumed by this author that the 1980 Cartier report was deemed sufficient and that no further compelling information existed which would have inspired Basin to request that additional archaeological research be done at either ranch location.

Mitigation of impacts was delayed until 1993, when Robert Cartier was brought back to the Shaughnessy-Murphy Ranch to photo-document it as requested by Corbett in 1986. At some point thereafter the buildings were removed, resulting in the empty field now comprising the current project area. It is assumed that the adjacent industrial park developments led to the destruction of the buildings of the Bellew-McCarthy Ranch as well; no photo-documentation of this complex resides at the NWIC.

Renewed interest in the remaining 22 acre portion of the Murphy Ranch began in the fall of 2005 when Holman & Associates was asked to complete a new cultural resources literature review for the property. Noting the 1980 Cartier report and citing more recent examples of the discovery of buried prehistoric cultural resource deposits on either side of Coyote Creek, Holman & Associates recommended that a new visual inspection of the field be conducted and that a limited program of mechanical subsurface presence/absence testing be completed to search for potentially buried prehistoric deposits.

DESCRIPTION OF FIELD WORK

A visual inspection of the project area was conducted by Miley Holman and Matthew Clark of Holman & Associates during the first week of December, 2005. Survey conditions were ideal at the time, since the vegetation had been removed by a recent discing and there had been a recent rain to clear the surface.

The entire project area shows a uniform layer of silty loamy soil almost entirely devoid of rock, either imported or native. No prehistoric cultural resources were seen at any point inside the borders of the project, nor were any historic deposits associated with the former Murphy Ranch complex discovered.

DESCRIPTION OF BACKHOE TESTING

A total of 4 days were reserved to complete the mechanical subsurface testing of the project area to search for archaeological deposits which may have existed under the uniform layer of silt found there. Existing utility corridors identified by the Underground Services Alert inspection eliminated portions of the property, mainly at the southern end, thus reducing the backhoe testing (see map) to a two day program.

Excluding those areas containing utility corridors, a total of 32 trenches were cut at regular intervals over the remaining open portions of the property (see map and trench log). Utilizing a 24 inch bucket mounted on a backhoe, all trenches were cut to an average depth of 2 meters below the current surface to search for buried archaeological soil horizons; numerous such deposits have been located on both banks of Coyote Creek upstream of the Murphy Ranch, buried under layers of silt averaging a meter in depth. In other areas historical filling activities has led to deeper buried archaeological soil deposits (midden).

The findings of the backhoe trenching operation reveal a continuous homogeneous layer of dark to light brown silts and clays containing little to no gravels or other indications of fast running water, suggesting that this portion of the Coyote Creek riparian zone was built up by slowly moving flood waters which inundated the area for long periods. The pattern of silty clay to a clay matrix extends from the banks of the Coyote inland to Murphy Ranch Road with no alteration. Despite all the former evidence of historic ranch use, no concentrations of historic material were seen anywhere inside the project zone, either on the surface or in any of the trenches.

FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS

In summary, no evidence of historic and/or prehistoric archaeological deposits were found anywhere inside the project area. In spite of the fact that backhoe testing could not be done in the southernmost end of the project area because of buried utilities, it is the finding of this report that future development of this parcel should have no effect on archaeological materials of any type.

This report does not recommend that future construction related earthmoving activities be monitored by an archaeologist. Construction crews involved specifically in deep trenching inside the project borders should be warned of the possibility of the discovery of deeply buried archaeological materials which might be encountered under the two meter limit of the trenching completed by Holman & Associates. In the event that any of the indicators described below are encountered, work should be stopped within 50 feet of the discovery until a qualified archaeologist has been retained to inspect the find. If it is determined that a potentially significant archaeological resource will be impacted by further construction related work, a plan for the evaluation of the resource should be submitted by the project archaeologist to the City of Milpitas Planning Department for approval. If subsequent field testing (hand excavation)

demonstrates that the area contains an archaeological resource eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), a plan for mitigation of impacts to the resource should be submitted to the Milpitas Planning Department for approval. Mitigation can take the form of additional hand excavation to retrieve data combined with archaeological monitoring of all project related earthmoving inside the resource boundaries to assure that all significant cultural materials are recorded and/or removed for future analysis along with any human remains and associated grave goods.

Archaeological site indicators can include but are not limited to the following: evidence of buried topsoil layers, evidence of fires (ash, charcoal, fire affected rock or earth), concentrations of stone, bone or shellfish in buried topsoil horizons or layers of silt, artifacts of these materials, and burials, either animal or human.

REFERENCES CITED

Cartier, Robert

1980 CULTURAL RESOURCE EVALUATION FOR THE PERRY AND
 ARIALLAGA PROJECT IN MILPITAS, CA. On file, Northwest Information
 Center (NWIC) file no. S-8545

Corbett, Michael

1986a ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE
 SHAUGHNESSY-MURPHY RANCH MILPITAS, CALIFORNIA. On file,
 NWIC File no. S-8257

1986b ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE BELLEW-
 MCCARTHY RANCH MILPITAS, CALIFORNIA. On file, NWIC file no. 8258

TRENCHING RECORD

Project/Site No.: Murphy Ranch Road			Date: 12/09/05
Recorder(s): I. Alexander, J. Belk		Trench Size: <u>2'</u> W by <u>7'</u> L	
Location: Milpitas, CA		Screen Size: 1/8"	

Trench	Depth(cm)	Soil/Sediment Description	Cultural Materials
1	0-59	Med-light yellow-brown silt. Med. grained/friable.	None.
"	59-101	Med-light yellow-brown silt; very fine grained.	"
"	101-140	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted containing small sub-angular gravels. Abrupt trans.	"
"	140-219	Dark-med brown silt clay; larger gravels and some sand.	"
2	0-46	Med-light yellow-brown silt. Med. grained/friable.	None.
"	46-111	Med-light yellow-brown silt; very fine grained.	"
"	111-160	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted containing small sub-angular gravels.	"
"	160-231	Dark-med brown silt clay; increase in clay content.	"
3	0-43	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	None.
"	43-87	Med-light yellow-brown silt; w/ visible sand lenses.	"
"	87-132	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	132-209	Dark-med brown silt clay; containing large sub-angular gravels (5-7cm in diam.)	"
4	0-25	Plowzone - Med-light yellow-brown silt mixed with decomposing organics.	None.
"	25-64	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	Carbon flecks.
"	64-78	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	None.
"	78-121	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	121-188	Dark-med brown silt clay; mottled and slightly moist.	"
"	188-218	Dark-med brown silt clay; more moist w/ depth.	"
5	0-26	Plowzone.	None.

TRENCHING RECORD

Project/Site No.: Murphy Ranch Road			Date: 12/09/05
Recorder(s): I. Alexander, J. Belk		Trench Size: <u>2'</u> W by <u>7'</u> L	
Location: Milpitas, CA		Screen Size: 1/8"	
Trench	Depth(cm)	Soil/Sediment Description	Cultural Materials
5 cont	26-51	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	None.
""	51-77	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	""
""	77-125	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	""
""	125-209	Dark-med brown silt clay; more moist w/ depth.	""
6	0-15	Plowzone.	None.
""	15-56	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	""
""	56-78	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	""
""	78-135	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	""
""	135-207	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	""
7	0-21	Plowzone.	None.
""	21-66	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	""
""	66-103	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	""
""	103-196	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	""
""	196-215	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	""
8	0-17	Plowzone.	None.
""	17-45	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	""
""	45-71	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	""
""	71-152	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	""
""	152-245	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	""
9	0-43	Plowzone.	None.

TRENCHING RECORD

Project/Site No.: Murphy Ranch Road			Date: 12/09/05
Recorder(s): I. Alexander, J. Belk		Trench Size: <u>2'</u> W by <u>7'</u> L	
Location: Milpitas, CA		Screen Size: 1/8"	

Trench	Depth(cm)	Soil/Sediment Description	Cultural Materials
9 cont	43-72	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	None.
"	72-223	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
10	0-52	Plowzone.	None.
"	52-83	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	83-151	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	151-205	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
11	0-48	Plowzone.	None.
"	48-67	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	67-214	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
12	0-31	Plowzone.	None.
"	31-69	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	69-180	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	180-253	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"
13	0-20	Plowzone.	None.
"	20-58	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	58-202	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
14	0-21	Plowzone.	None.
"	21-81	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	81-156	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"

TRENCHING RECORD

Project/Site No.: Murphy Ranch Road			Date: 12/12/05
Recorder(s): I. Alexander, J. Belk		Trench Size: <u>2'</u> W by <u>7'</u> L	
Location: Milpitas, CA		Screen Size: 1/8"	

Trench	Depth(cm)	Soil/Sediment Description	Cultural Materials
14 cont	156-204	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	None.
15	0-17	Plowzone.	None.
"	17-63	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	63-141	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	141-201	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"
16	0-22	Plowzone.	None.
"	22-61	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	61-181	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
	181-202	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"
17	0-25	Plowzone.	None.
"	25-80	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	80-171	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	171-205	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"
18	0-28	Plowzone.	None.
"	28-81	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	81-189	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	189-251	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
19	0-24	Plowzone.	None.
"	24-73	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"

TRENCHING RECORD

Project/Site No.: Murphy Ranch Road			Date: 12/12/05
Recorder(s): I. Alexander, J. Belk		Trench Size: <u>2'</u> W by <u>7'</u> L	
Location: Milpitas, CA		Screen Size: 1/8"	

Trench	Depth(cm)	Soil/Sediment Description	Cultural Materials
19 cont	73-166	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	None.
"	166-215	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"
20	0-21	Plowzone.	None.
"	21-91	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	91-163	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	163-207	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
21	0-22	Plowzone.	None.
"	22-58	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	58-92	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	92-153	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	153-209	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"
22	0-23	Plowzone.	None.
"	23-57	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	57-78	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	78-149	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	149-210	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"
23	0-19	Plowzone.	None.
"	19-71	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	71-161	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	161-228	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"

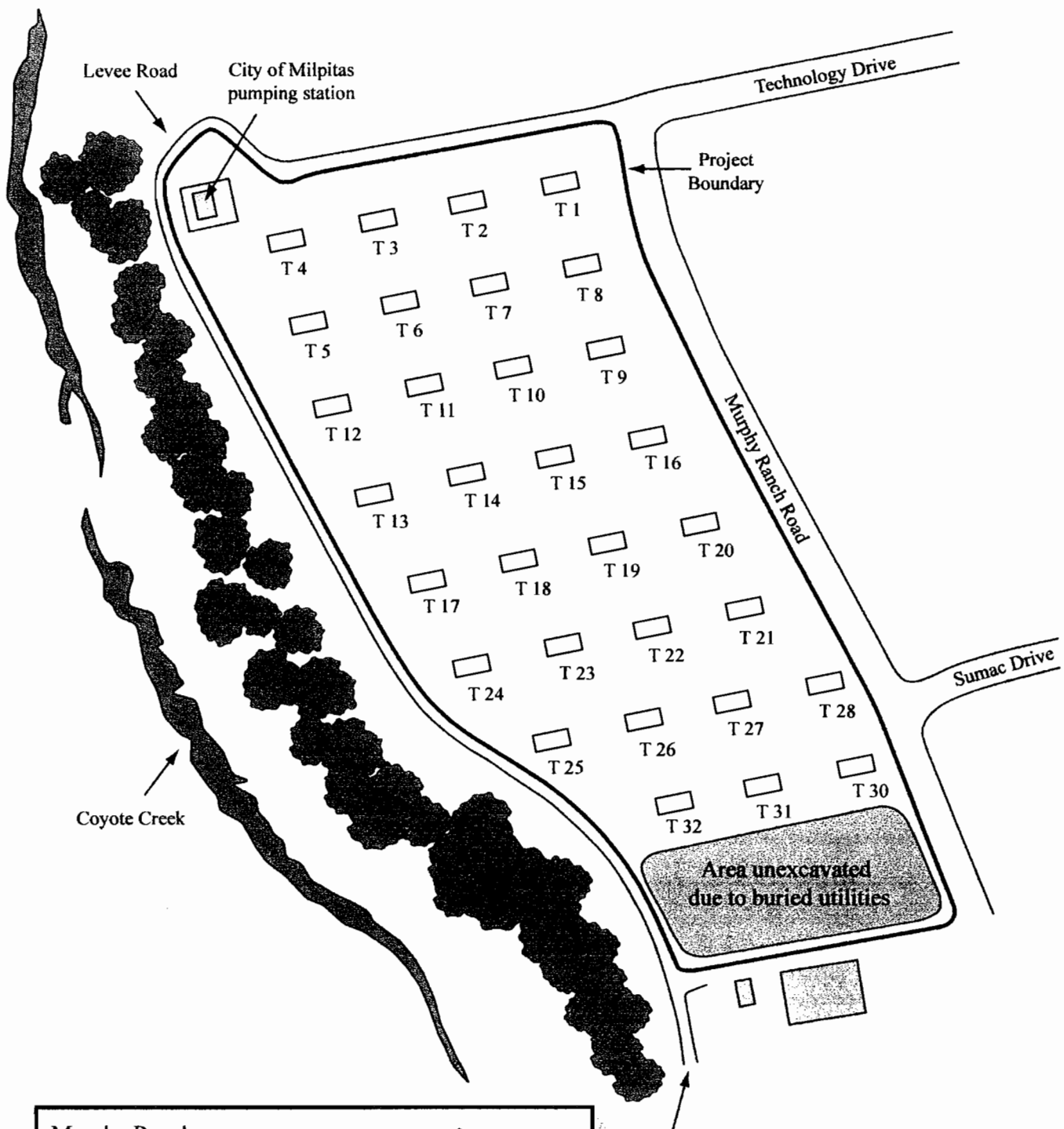
TRENCHING RECORD

Project/Site No.: Murphy Ranch Road			Date: 12/12/05
Recorder(s): I. Alexander, J. Belk		Trench Size: <u>2'</u> W by <u>7'</u> L	
Location: Milpitas, CA		Screen Size: 1/8"	

Trench	Depth(cm)	Soil/Sediment Description	Cultural Materials
24	0-78	Plowzone.	None.
"	78-160	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	160-237	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
25	0-22	Plowzone.	None.
"	22-46	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	46-71	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	71-173	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	173-252	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"
26	0-18	Plowzone.	None.
"	18-39	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	39-62	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	62-164	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	164-208	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"
27	0-21	Plowzone.	None.
"	21-49	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	49-70	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	70-148	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	148-203	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"
28	0-18	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	18-42	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"


TRENCHING RECORD

Project/Site No.: Murphy Ranch Road			Date: 12/12/05
Recorder(s): I. Alexander, J. Belk		Trench Size: <u>2'</u> W by <u>7'</u> L	
Location: Milpitas, CA		Screen Size: 1/8"	
Trench	Depth(cm)	Soil/Sediment Description	Cultural Materials
28 cont.	42-68	Plowzone.	None.
"	68-142	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	142-230	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
29	0-19	Plowzone.	None.
"	19-39	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	39-82	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	82-161	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	161-202	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"
30	0-18	Plowzone.	None.
"	18-37	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	37-69	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	69-143	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	143-209	Dark-med brown silt clay; moist.	"
31	0-20	Plowzone.	None.
"	20-34	Med-light yellow-brown silt; slightly compacted.	"
"	34-57	Med-light yellow-brown silt; less compaction.	"
"	57-150	Dark-med brown silt clay; moderately compacted.	"
"	150-178	Construction Sand – large grained, imported sand. Trench 31 halted @ 178 cmbs.	Sand.
32	0-45	Plowzone.	None.
	45-165	Construction Sand – large grained, imported sand. Trench 32 halted @ 165 cmbs.	Sand.



Murphy Ranch
Archaeological Trench
Location Map
Milpitas, CA
Holman & Assoc.
12/13/05

N



1 2 3 4 5 : 200'

